

MINUTES
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – Thursday, November 19, 2015
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members Present: S. Ferrigno, J. McGuire, M. Hirschorn, K. Dorgan,
Staff Present: Matthew Hart, Town Manager; Linda Painter, Director of Planning

S. Ferrigno called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment was received.

Approval of Minutes: Tabled until December 17, 2015.

Old Business:

1. **2015 Work Plan:**

- *Permitting Guidebook.* Painter updated the Commission on the permitting guide. Members questioned whether it could include some type of checklist related to various code requirements. Painter noted that it would not be possible to list every potential requirement, but the guide will include information on where to find various codes and regulations. Dorgan suggested working with the state publish building codes on-line to reduce purchase costs. As this may be a complex issue, the Commission identified a potential intermediate solution of purchasing a copy of the Building Code and having it available for public viewing at the Mansfield Public Library.
- *Agriculture.* Finally the commission talked about holding a joint meeting with the Agriculture Committee in the upcoming year to review economic development in the agricultural sector.
- *Business Recognition.* Members suggested that the Commission could assist in recognizing local businesses that have achieved a milestone or received an award by drafting a press release and sending it to local publications, posting on Facebook, etc. Staff will reach out to businesses to see if they have any events or awards that could be recognized.

Staff will also reach out to Connecticut Magazine to determine how they curate the “Best of” lists.

- *Technology Park.* Members discussed how the Town could encourage new high tech businesses to locate in Mansfield. As an initial step, staff will reach out to UConn to see if there are any businesses needed to support new tenants in the Tech Park. Dorgan suggested working with UConn to see what other

communities are doing; visiting places such as Harvard, MIT, Yale; sponsoring focus groups with innovators on campus and identifying angel investors as potential longer term, larger strategies.

New Business:

1. **EDC Roles and Responsibilities:** Hart discussed reappointment of members; he will be contacting current members to see if they are interested in reappointment. In terms of roles and responsibilities, Hart noted that one of the primary responsibilities of the Commission is to provide feedback to staff and other town committees/commissions on various initiatives.

Reports:

- **Staff Updates** Painter noted the staff report that was distributed.
- **Chamber of Commerce/Mansfield Business Professional Association (MBPA):** The next meeting of the MBPA will be held on December 9, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Other:** The commission discussed appointing liaisons to other business organizations such as the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the local Chambers of Commerce.

It was noted that the next meeting on December 17, 2015 would be a short meeting and that it would adjourn to Dog Lane Café for a Holiday Celebration.

Adjournment: S. Ferrigno adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Painter, AICP
Director of Planning and Development